

Comments on the proposed designation of *Iguanodon bernissartensis* Boulenger in Beneden, 1881 as the type species of *Iguanodon* Mantell, 1825, and proposed designation of a lectotype (Reptilia, Ornithischia)

(Case 3037; see BZN 55: 99–104)

(1) David Norman

The Sedgwick Museum, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ, U.K.

The name *Iguanodon* occupies an important position in the history of the Dinosaur group as a whole. *Iguanodon* was the second dinosaur taxon to be formally described and illustrated (Mantell, 1825) and was one of the three founding members of Richard Owen's Dinosauria (1842). Ever since Mantell's formal description this taxon has been the subject of minor, but important, nomenclatural dispute. In short, this was because Mantell failed to suggest a specific name for the material that he described, because Owen was fond of his own rather idiosyncratic nomenclature, because it has proved difficult to identify Mantell's original type series of teeth from the material that he sold to the Natural History Museum in London, and finally, but of greatest importance, because dinosaurian teeth of a type morphologically very similar to those described by Mantell have proved to be rather ubiquitous in late Mesozoic deposits worldwide.

Stabilisation of the name *Iguanodon* is therefore of considerable historical, taxonomic and nomenclatural importance. The action suggested in the application by Charig & Chapman cuts through the inevitable earlier subjectivity surrounding the name and is, to my mind, both prudent and sensible; it will combine the first well-established species of *Iguanodon* as the designated type of the genus with a virtually complete skeleton that has been long and internationally recognised in the literature associated with this dinosaur.

(2) Angela C. Milner

Fossil Vertebrates Division, Department of Palaeontology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K.

The proposal to designate a type species in accord with usage for the genus *Iguanodon* resolves long-standing anomalies and misconceptions. It will be surprising to many that the formal systematics of such a well known genus as *Iguanodon* have been so confused and unsatisfactory for so many years.

The proposal to designate *Iguanodon bernissartensis* as the type species of *Iguanodon* is logical and obvious. It is the senior species based on diagnostic material, and it well fulfils the function of a type species under the Code. The designation of IRSNB 1534, skeleton Q, in the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique as the lectotype of *I. bernissartensis* is also in accord with its (albeit invalid) citation as the type specimen.

I support this application to clarify, at last, the taxonomy and nomenclature of *Iguanodon*.